



5. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein said acquisition means acquires the data through a  
network.

5 6. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein said layout information includes information  
indicating the sheet size or the layout direction.

7. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1,  
10 wherein said layout information is information designating  
a page and said acquisition means acquires data  
corresponding to the designated page.

8. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1,  
15 wherein said structured description language is XML or HTML.

9. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein said apparatus is a printing apparatus.

20 10. An image forming system composed of an image  
forming apparatus capable of outputting an image on a  
recording medium based on data described in a structured  
description language and an external apparatus for  
executing a conversion process of the data described with  
25 said structured description language, the system  
comprising:

informing means for informing, to an external apparatus,



12. An image forming apparatus according to claim 11,  
wherein said changing means changes said layout information  
according to the function or status of said image forming  
apparatus.

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13. An image forming apparatus according to claim 11,  
wherein said layout information is information indicating  
the sheet size.

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14. An image forming apparatus capable of outputting an  
image on a recording medium based on data described with a  
structured description language, comprising:

reception means for receiving a print instruction;

determination means for determining layout information

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required for assigning an image based on the data to the  
recording medium, in case the received print instruction  
does not include said layout information;

informing means for informing, to an external apparatus,  
layout information determined by said determination means;

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and

acquisition means for acquiring data outputted from  
said external apparatus in response to the information by  
said informing means.

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15. An image forming apparatus according to claim 14,  
wherein said determination means determines said layout  
information according to the function or status of said

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image forming apparatus.

16. An image forming apparatus according to claim 14,  
wherein said layout information is information indicating  
5 the sheet size.

17. An image forming method for outputting an image on  
a recording medium based on data described with a  
structured description language, comprising steps of:  
10 informing, to an external apparatus, information for  
acquiring data and layout information necessary for  
assigning an image based on the data to the recording  
medium; and  
acquiring data outputted from said external apparatus  
15 according to the information by said informing step.

18. An image forming method according to claim 17,  
wherein the information for acquiring the data is  
information for identifying the data.  
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19. An image forming method according to claim 18,  
wherein the information for identifying the data is  
represented by URI.

20. An image forming method according to claim 17,  
further comprising steps of:  
receiving a print instruction including information  
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indicating the position of storage of data and said layout information; and

informing information included in said print instruction.

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21. An image forming method according to claim 17, wherein the data are acquired through a network.

22. An image forming method according to claim 17,  
10 wherein said layout information includes information indicating the sheet size or the layout direction.

23. An image forming method according to claim 17,  
15 wherein said layout information is information designating a page and there are acquired data corresponding to the designated page.

24. An image forming method according to claim 17,  
20 wherein said structured description language is XML or HTML.

25. An image forming method according to claim 17, wherein said method is realized in a printing apparatus.

26. An image forming method for outputting an image on  
25 a recording medium based on data described with a structured description language, comprising steps of:  
receiving a print instruction including layout

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in response to the information by said informing step.

30. An image forming method according to claim 29,  
wherein said layout information is determined according to  
5 the function or status of said image forming apparatus.

31. An image forming method according to claim 29, wherein said layout information is information indicating the sheet size.

32. A memory medium storing a program to be executed by an image forming apparatus capable of outputting an image on a recording medium based on data described with a structured description language, the program causes a computer to execute:

an informing step of informing, to an external apparatus, information for acquiring data and layout information necessary for assigning an image based on the data to the recording medium; and

20 an acquisition step of acquiring data outputted from said external apparatus according to the information by said informing step.

33. A memory medium storing a program to be executed by  
25 an image forming apparatus capable of outputting an image  
on a recording medium based on data described with a  
structured description language, the program causes a



a reception step of receiving a print instruction including layout information required for assigning an image based on the data to the recording medium;

an informing step of informing, to an external apparatus, the layout information changed by said changing step; and

34. A memory medium storing a program to be executed by an image forming apparatus capable of outputting an image on a recording medium based on data described with a structured description language, the program causes a computer to execute:

20        a determination step of determining layout information  
required for assigning an image based on the data to the  
recording medium, in case the received print instruction  
does not include said layout information;

an acquisition step of acquiring data outputted from

said external apparatus in response to the information by  
said informing step.

35. A program to be executed by an image forming  
5 apparatus capable of outputting an image on a recording  
medium based on data described with a structured  
description language, the program comprising:

an informing step of informing, to an external  
apparatus, information for acquiring data and layout  
10 information necessary for assigning an image based on the  
data to the recording medium; and

an acquisition step of acquiring data outputted from  
said external apparatus according to the information by  
said informing step.

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36. A program to be executed by an image forming apparatus capable of outputting an image on a recording medium based on data described with a structured description language, the program comprising:

20        a reception step of receiving a print instruction  
including layout information required for assigning an  
image based on the data to the recording medium;

a changing step of changing the layout information received by said reception step;

25        an informing step of informing, to an external  
apparatus, the layout information changed by said changing  
step; and

an acquisition step of acquiring data outputted from said external apparatus in response to the information by said informing step.

- 5        37. A program to be executed by an image forming apparatus capable of outputting an image on a recording medium based on data described with a structured description language, the program comprising:
- 10        a reception step of receiving a print instruction;
- 10        a determination step of determining layout information required for assigning an image based on the data to the recording medium, in case the received print instruction does not include said layout information;
- 15        an informing step of informing, to an external apparatus, the layout information determined by said determination step; and
- 15        an acquisition step of acquiring data outputted from said external apparatus in response to the information by said informing step.

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